Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the existing Sequence Listing with the amended Sequence Listing submitted herewith.

Please amend the paragraph on page 17, lines 5-19, as follows:

The resulting PCR fragment was cut with NcoI and BspH1, and ligated as an amino terminal extension into an NcoI cut bluescript SK vector containing the signal peptide of $h\beta_2m$ (Guessow et al., 1987, *J. Immunol.* 139:3132-8, GenBank accession number: M17986), the c-myc tag EQKLISEEDLN (Zhou et al., 1996, *Mol Immunol.* 33:1127-34, Seq. I.D. No. 15), and full length $h\beta_2m$ (plasmid #267). The resulting construct (plasmid #392) was then cut with NheI to linearize it 5' of the myc sequence. Synthetic oligonucleotides encoding a $[gly4ser]_3$ (SEQ ID NO: 11) spacer were engineered with NheI compatible ends and ligated into the linearized vector to create plasmid #396. Finally, the entire coding sequence of wild-type $h\beta_2m$ (without a myc tag) was PCR amplified from a $h\beta_2m$ cDNA, with the addition of NheI site 5' and a Not I site 3' of the coding sequence. This product was digested with NheI and NotI, and subcloned into plasmid #396 that had also been digested with NheI and NotI to generate plasmid #406. This plasmid contained the signal sequence of $h\beta_2m$, followed by the extracellular domain of mB7.2, a 15 amino acid spacer, then mature $h\beta_2m$. For expression in bacteria, the eukaryotic signal sequence was removed. Thus, plasmid #406 was digested with NcoI and NotI to liberate the fusion protein without the signal peptide present, and this was then subcloned into the bacterial expression vector pET21-d that had been linearized with NcoI and NotI.